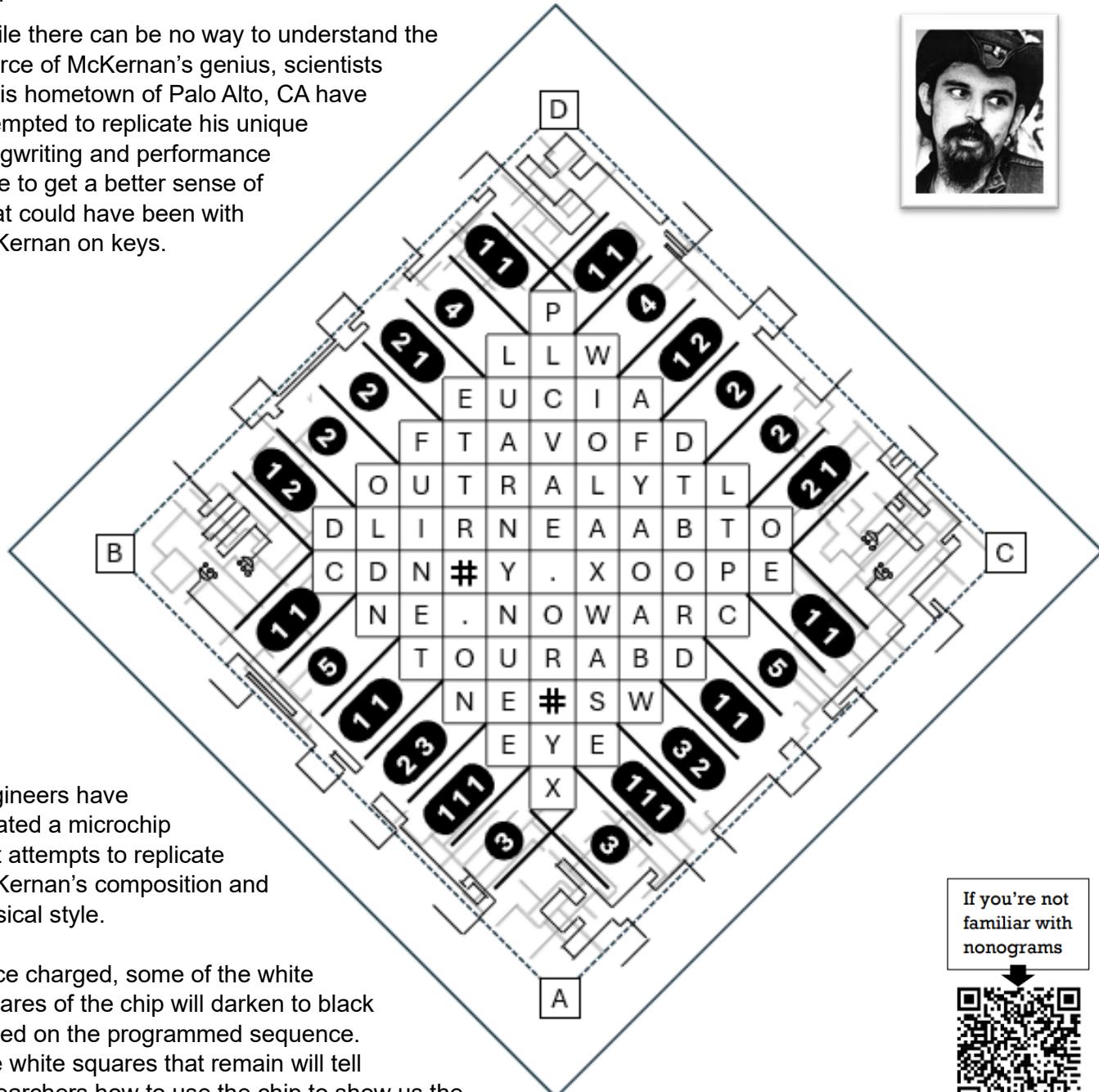
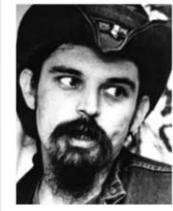




The first keyboardist for the Grateful Dead was Ron “Pigpen” McKernan. McKernan’s untimely death in 1973 has left many wondering what the creative trajectory of the band could have been with his presence.

While there can be no way to understand the source of McKernan’s genius, scientists in his hometown of Palo Alto, CA have attempted to replicate his unique songwriting and performance style to get a better sense of what could have been with McKernan on keys.



Engineers have created a microchip that attempts to replicate McKernan’s composition and musical style.

Once charged, some of the white squares of the chip will darken to black based on the programmed sequence. The white squares that remain will tell researchers how to use the chip to show us the future of music through its past!